



# COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**DECEMBER 21, 2018**

## **Employee Recognition**

The High Reliability trainers collectively educated 6,460 clinical, ancillary, physician and leadership staff across the CCH enterprise regarding error-prevention team skills, behaviors and tools. This was done simultaneously in four-hour classroom training sessions held across the system over the past six months. **Irene Marks** and **Kisonah Smith**, the High Reliability Education project leaders, coordinated these efforts. There were more than 50 trainers throughout the system.

More than 98% of staff have completed customer service training. Much appreciation goes to **Patty Looker**, Director of Patient Experience and a team of 25 trainers who gave their time and energy to the project. They provided tools and techniques that will make patient and family experience enhancement a reality throughout CCH. Customer service training will be ongoing for new employees.

**Annie Peterson, Ellen Greene, Carla Salvo, Mabrey Simpson, Gwendolyn Williams, Beronica Woodson** worked together to operationalize the new Professional Building. They were willing to jump in and perform any task needed, including acting as guides and assisting with patient access. They are on site each day to ensure the registration staff have the necessary support.

Three CCH oncology certified nurses received awards at the Chicago Chapter Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) meeting. **Marciana Bowen**, nurse coordinator for chemotherapy and infusion unit was awarded a \$500 professional development scholarship. **Linda Liu**, nurse coordinator for medical surgical unit, was awarded free re-certification for her Oncology Nursing Certification. **Elizabeth Vaclavik**, director of ambulatory procedure units, was awarded a \$1500 scholarship to attend the National ONS Congress meeting.

The Associate Board of the Cook County Health Foundation is comprised of a number of young professionals committed to assisting CCH meet its mission. The Associate Board (AB) was founded in 2015 by Josh Sorin and **Lindsay Zimmerman** and has steadily matured into an organization that has raised nearly \$100,000 for Cook County Health or our partners such as The Greater Chicago Food Depository. For the past year, Lindsay has also served as the President of the AB. In this capacity, she has recruited and mentored new leaders, held a series of mini-events to raise CCH awareness among young people, volunteered at the CCH Foundation gala and much more. Lindsay's commitment to the Foundation is unmatched. While Lindsay's term as President is expiring, she will remain actively engaged mentoring the new leadership and representing the AB with West Side United.

**Paul Langlois, APN, PhD, CCRN, CCNS** master of clinical care, was the recipient of the UIC Power of Nursing Leadership SAGE Award. This award honors the hard work, commitment and dedication necessary to serve the health care needs of the people of Illinois through supremely skilled leadership and the courage to break through barriers.

**Donna Hart**, who has served as Chief Information Officer for CCH is retiring on December 31 after more than 22 years with CCH. She began her CCH career at Provident Hospital as a data operations manager and was instrumental in consolidating the IT departments from Stroger, Provident and Oak Forest into one IT Department. When Ms. Hart was appointed CIO, she led the launch of a comprehensive patient portal MyCookCountyHealth. She also led CCH in both the inpatient and outpatient setting achieve Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's (HIMSS) Stage 7-

paving the way toward achieving a paperless medical record environment. Only six percent of U.S. hospitals have reached Stage 7.

**Martin Grant**, who has served as the director of clinical applications for the CCH IT department is retiring on December 31. Prior to his appointment in IT, Mr. Grant served as the first system pharmacy director for CCH, where he initiated the standardization of pharmacy management software systems, robotics and processes. As a special honor, Mr. Grant was the 1996 recipient of the Cook County Board Superior Service Award for establishing the 340b drug discount program, and again by the Cook County Board Office of the President in 2008 for saving tens of millions of dollars due to the integration of Cook County Health pharmacy operations. Mr. Grant's leadership was critical in the achievement of HIMSS Level 7.

**Dr. Edward Linn**, who has served as the chair of the department and obstetrics and gynecology is retiring on December 31. Since 2008, Dr. Linn has been responsible for directing and coordinating the provision of obstetrical and gynecological services throughout all of the System's facilities. Dr. Linn has significantly contributed to the obstetrical and gynecological scientific literature and has extensively lectured locally and nationally on a wide range of OB-Gyne topics with a focus on hormone replacement and contraception modalities. He has been the principal and co-principal investigator on a number of important research grants, has served on community service organizations and journal editorial boards and has participated in a wide range of university and hospital committees.

## **Activities and Announcements**

- **Food As Medicine Update**

Through December 11<sup>th</sup>, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) has resulted in 152 visits to 12 CCH health centers – Austin, Cicero, the CORE Center, Cottage Grove, Englewood, Logan Square, Near South, Oak Forest, Prieto, Robbins, Woodlawn, and Provident/Sengstacke. The move to a permanent Vista Health Center location has delayed the staff training and start date for the Fresh Truck, which is now expected to take place by the end of Q1 of 2019.

Collectively, the Fresh Truck distributions have resulted in the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables to 19,579 individuals, representing 64,640 household members, totaling more than 415,000 pounds of fresh produce. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

CCH is hosting a virtual holiday food drive, in order to support our partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. CCH seeks to raise \$15,000, which will help GCFD provide 45,000 meals to food insecure families throughout Cook County. Donations may be made online at <http://www.myfooddrive.org/#CookCountyHealth> through January 15, 2019.

CCH Fresh Markets have moved indoors for the winter. The Fresh Market schedule is listed below, note updated dates and times:

- Oak Forest Health Center on Wednesdays, 9am-2pm
- Robbins Health Center on Thursdays, 11am-3pm
- Cottage Grove Health Center on Fridays, 9am-2pm

Fresh produce is supplied by Black Oaks Center, a nonprofit that seeks to create a just, holistic, and local food system through education, entrepreneurship, and access to healthy, affordable foods. CCH partners with Experimental Station's Link Up Illinois Link Match program to offer SNAP users with a match on all purchases at CCHHS Fresh Markets, up to \$20/market/week.

IMPACT 2020 Objectives 1.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.4

- The Cottage Grove and Englewood Health Centers hosted their second **Advisory Councils** meetings this month. Dr. Shannon and Ambulatory COO Iliana Mora attended the Cottage Grove meeting and were able to share their vision on Cook County Health and ambulatory medical practices with attendees. Dr. Shannon indicated that in 2019, Cook County Health will embark on its next strategic planning process and that community input, especially input from advisory council members is necessary to formulate the plan. At the Englewood meeting, we were joined by CCH physician Dr. Brian Humphrey who is starting a Men's Health support group. The new Arlington Heights (formerly Vista) Health Center Advisory Council will meet in January once the new facility opens to the public.

#### IMPACT 2020 Objective 7.4

- On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Claudia Fegan, Chief Medical Officer, joined President Preckwinkle, members of our congressional delegation including Senator Richard Durbin and County Board members at a press conference encouraging individuals to sign up for **marketplace plans** before the open enrollment deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### IMPACT 2020 Objective 7.1

- More than 95% of the workforce met the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for compliance with **the CCH's Annual Influenza Vaccine Policy**, up from 92% last year. Discipline is underway for those who did not comply with the policy by the deadline.

#### IMPACT 2020 Objectives 1.1, 7.5

*(Select materials and media clips attached)*

## Legislative Update

### Local

- On Tuesday, December 4, the Cook County Board approved Committee assignments. Commissioner Dennis Deer (2<sup>nd</sup> District) was selected to serve as Chairman of the County Board's Health and Hospitals Committee and Commissioner Luis Arroyo (8<sup>th</sup> District) was selected to serve as Vice Chair. The Chairman of the Cook County Board's Health and Hospitals Committee also serves as a Director on the Cook County Health Board.
- At the December 12<sup>th</sup> Cook County Board meeting Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Heather Prendergast, MD, MS, MPH to a full term on the Cook County Health Board of Directors. At the same meeting, President Preckwinkle's recommendation of Michael Koetting to serve on the Cook County Health Board of Directors was referred to the Legislation Committee for consideration. The full Cook County Board is expected to approve the appointment at their January 24, 2019 Board meeting.

### State

- Doug Elwell, CCH Deputy CEO for Finance and Strategy has joined Governor-elect Pritzker's Healthy Children and Families Transition Committee. CCH Board Director David Munar co-chairs this committee along with State Senator Heather Steans and Nancy Ronquillo of Children's Home and Aid.
- Two "lame duck" session days are scheduled for January 7 and 8, 2019 that will allow members of the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to take action prior to members of the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly being sworn in on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and state constitutional officers will be sworn in on January 14, 2019.

### Federal

- Congress returned from the Thanksgiving recess with two weeks until its stopgap funding measure keeping the government open would expire, at midnight December 7. The main impediment to moving the remaining appropriations bills remains funding for the president's border wall in the Homeland Security bill. However, the death of former president George H.W. Bush and the state funeral observances in Washington which followed, prompted Congress and the White House to agree to another continuing resolution (CR) that would keep the agencies open until December 21. In the intervening weeks the sides appear to be no closer to a deal. Fortunately for CCH, Medicaid funding is mandatory and does not require an appropriation. Furthermore, funding for the other federal health programs was approved with the enactment of the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill in September.
- **Texas v. United States:** Late in the day on Friday, December 14, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in the Northern District of Texas handed down a ruling in the lawsuit brought by the Texas Attorney General and several of his Republican state colleagues challenging the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Judge O'Connor's declarative judgment agreed with the plaintiffs' argument that when Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017, repealing the ACA penalty for not carrying health insurance, it rendered the entire ACA unconstitutional. They argued that this was because the U.S. Supreme Court had upheld the constitutionality of the ACA on the basis of the penalty being a constitutional exercise of the power of Congress to levy taxes. The judge also ruled that the entire ACA was thereby rendered unconstitutional, not only the consumer protections like guaranteed issue and community rating, but also the Medicaid expansion, the Prevention and Public Health Fund, permitting young people to stay on their parents insurance up to age 26 and all the other programs and provisions. It is noteworthy that the decision was a declarative judgment and did not include an injunction.

The judge has ordered the parties to submit briefs on the other claims in the suit, indicating that he is not finished ruling on it. It is likely that it will be some time before it will be ripe for appeal. Nevertheless, the Democratic state attorneys general who have intervened to defend the ACA in the case, led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, have announced their intention to appeal. Shortly after the Texas Attorney

General filed the lawsuit, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan joined the case in defense of the ACA, and CCH provided an affidavit in support of her filing.

House Democratic Leader and incoming Speaker Nancy Pelosi has announced that the House will also move to intervene in the case and defend the ACA in the appeals process. While Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer has also called on the Senate to intervene, it is unlikely that the Republican majority would allow such a politically awkward vote. Incoming Senate Finance Committee chair Chuck Grassley has suggested that he would hold hearings on the issue next year, though legislation is unlikely to be in the offing, since Democrats would view legislation to “fix” the ACA as muddying the legal waters while the Texas case is under appeal.

Ultimately the Texas case could end up before the recently reconfigured Supreme Court.

- House Democrats are pledging to move gun safety legislation early in the 116th Congress. The likely next Energy and Commerce Committee chairman, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), has announced that he plans to authorize legislation to fund gun violence research.
- On December 4, The American Hospital Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges and three hospitals filed suit against the CMS rule finalizing the cuts to hospital outpatient clinics. Last month, CMS announced its site-neutral payments rule, which reduces Medicare payments for visits to satellite clinics to bring them in line with rates for visits to doctors’ offices. CMS estimates the cuts will save Medicare \$380 million next year.
- On December 4, Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced a bill to prevent drug companies from overcharging Medicaid. The “Right Rebate Act of 2018” would authorize HHS to fine drug companies that deliberately misclassify products in Medicaid and recover rebate payments that are due. The bill responds to Mylan’s misclassification of the EpiPen as a generic drug for Medicaid and paying lower rebates than it would have if it had been properly classified as a branded product.
- On December 11, the House passed the IMPROVE Act, H.R. 7217, a package of non-controversial, bi-partisan Medicaid provisions, including new penalties for pharmaceutical companies that overcharge the program. The bill includes a program to improve care for children with complex medical conditions, and it extends some Medicaid payment policies. It is not clear if the Senate will be able to move it in the lame duck, but Sens. Grassley and Wyden have indicated their support.
- On December 12, HR 2422, the “Action for Dental Health Act of 2018” by Rep. Robin Kelly was signed into law by the president. The bill authorizes new programs to improve access to oral health care for low-income individuals. Under the law, local health departments can apply for grants with non-profit community organizations to expand access.
- On December 13, the Congressional Budget Office issued its annual report of options to reduce the federal deficit. Converting Medicaid to capped or block grant system featured prominently, once again.
- On December 17, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) announced that he is not running for re-election in 2020. As chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee he has shown a willingness to negotiate health care and education laws with ranking Democrat Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.).

**Protection of Medicaid remains a key priority for CCHHS at both the State and Federal level.**

## Community Outreach

January 5	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>New Year's Gladiator Fitness Expo</b> which is sponsored by Gladiator Powerlifting will take place at Universal Entertainment Center located at 11901 South Loomis Boulevard in Chicago. The Gladiator Fitness Expo was derived from an idea to introducing fitness on a beginner, intermediate and advanced Level. Organizers plan to have 10-12 of the top fitness instructors in the world at the event and give them the platform to teach fitness classes on all levels. Participants will have all the resources to attain and maintain a healthy lifestyle when they leave the Expo.
January 9	CCHHS promotion at the <b>Marillac St. Vincent Family Services - Marillac Social Center Pantry and Resource Fair</b> that is sponsored by the Marillac Social Center and takes place at the Center located at 212 S. Francisco in Chicago
January 12	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Winter Resource Fair</b> which is co-hosted by Peoples Gas, ComEd, and CEDA and will take place at the Mark T. Skinner Classical School located at 1260 W. Adams Street in Chicago. This is our 5 <sup>th</sup> year participating in this event which provides families with health screenings and information about services and programs including primary and preventative health care.
January 14	CCHHS promotion at the <b>Marillac St. Vincent Family Services - Marillac Social Center Pantry and Resource Fair</b> that is sponsored by the Marillac Social Center and takes place at the Center located at 212 S. Francisco in Chicago
January 16	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at <b>DCFS Resource Fair</b> which will take at the DCFS Harvey Office located at 15115 S. Dixie Highway in Harvey. DCFS sponsors these Resource Fairs throughout the year to assist people and staff in obtaining information and resources that will strengthen families.
January 19	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>State Representative Chris Welch's New Year, New You</b> which will take place at the Lindopp Middle School, 2400 S. 18th Avenue in Broadview. Representative Welch will bring a local trainer that will help find the right health and fitness activities to make a 2019 brand new you. The event will also provide with Healthy refreshments, health and fitness resources and specially information on how to access insurance and medical services.
January 26	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>3rd Veteran Women Health &amp; Wellness Day</b> which is hosted by Illinois Department of Employment Security will take place at Instituto de Progreso Latino located at 2520 S. Western Avenue in Chicago. This event is meant to celebrate and thank the women veteran community for all they have sacrificed, while providing them with the services they need they the event will provide our veteran women with free health screenings, free Vet Pampering, Veteran resources and make sure that they have information on how their families can access medical services and health insurance.
January 29	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at <b>Community Health Fair</b> which is hosted by the <b>LEARN Charter School</b> at the Foglia Center located at 212 S. Francisco Avenue in Chicago.